

On the other hand, to refer to a case with which the reviewer has some personal familiarity, there is no reason at all for the interpretation of the genus *Vernonia* to include *V. noveboracensis* and *V. glauca* in the Chicago area. And lastly, the reviewer, who has just returned unscathed from Cambridge, although completely without weapons of botanical offense or defense, must take exception to the attitude on page ix that the botanists of the country are divided nomenclatorially into two "more or less hostile groups." Differences of opinion and of procedure there are, certainly, but this can by no means be described as hostility, and it is regrettable that an amateur clientele should needlessly be given such an erroneous impression.

But the book as a whole is a fine production and a joy to look at, and it takes the reviewer back to his own botanizing expeditions over parts of the territory and pleasantly recalls his acquaintance with the author.

H. A. GLEASON.

TWO RECENT BOOKS ON THE VEGETATION OF SWITZERLAND

American ecologists can get a good idea of the thorough way in which their Swiss colleagues undertake vegetational studies by a perusal of two valuable books recently issued as parts 14 and 15 of the Beiträge zur geobotanischen Landesaufnahme, published by the Phytogeographical Commission of the Schweizerische Naturforschende Gesellschaft under the editorship of Dr. E. Rübel. In the first* of these, 209 pages are devoted to a consideration of agricultural and forestal conditions over an area of about 430 square miles; in the second,† 760 pages are used for the description of the natural vegetation over an area of almost exactly 100 square miles. As a result any reader, no matter how slight his personal familiarity with Switzerland, inevitably feels that the descriptions must be trustworthy and accurate, as well as complete and detailed. Thousands of American tourists, many of them botanically inclined, have passed through these two areas, the one including the railway from the St. Gotthard tunnel north

* Oechslin, Max. Die Wald- und Wirtschaftsverhältnisse im Kanton Uri. 209 pages, 29 figures, map. Hans Huber, Bern, 1927. Price 24 francs.

† Gams, Helmut. Von den Follateres zur Dent de Morcles. xii + 760 pages, 100 figures, map. Hans Huber, Bern, 1927. Price 48 francs.

to the Lake of Lucerne and the high region around Andermatt, the other the valley of the Rhone north and east of its great bend at Martigny.

The first monograph, after describing the geography, geology, soils, and climate of Uri, proceeds to a discussion of the forests, including their prehistoric or normal altitudinal limits, the present tree-line, the nine forest types (mostly coniferous), and the agricultural and industrial practices which are affecting the forests today. This is followed by a similar discussion of the pastures and meadows and of the comparatively limited areas of arable land.

The second monograph is more strictly botanical in nature. Nearly two hundred pages are used to describe the environment and the floristics of the region. The vegetation is then classified into groups based on the form or habits of the component species, the three chief divisions being the floating vegetation or plankton, the adnate vegetation of algae, mosses, and lichens, and the rooting vegetation. The latter is in turn divided essentially in accordance with Raunkiaer's well known principles into hydrophytia, helophytia, geophytia (including annuals and cultivated plants), hemicryptophytia (meadows and other herbaceous associations), chamaephytia (heaths), and phanerophytia (forests and shrub-associations). The monograph closes with about twenty pages discussing successional relations.

Both monographs are effectively illustrated and accompanied by maps of the vegetation on a scale of 1 to 50,000. These are superposed on the regular Swiss topographic maps, showing towns, roads, and contours, and so become a Baedeker for any botanical tourist in these parts of Switzerland.

H. A. GLEASON.

DREWITT'S LATIN NAMES OF COMMON PLANTS*

In the preface the author explains that the object of the book is "to get at a reasonable pronunciation of the Latin names of some familiar flowers and, when possible, their interesting derivations and history." After a short introduction giving the rules of Latin pronunciation, there are notes on the "name-givers,"—

* F. Dawtry Drewitt. *Latin Names of Common Plants, their Pronunciation and History.* 68 pages. H. F. & G. Witherby, London, 1927.